

SPECIFICATION AMENDMENT**In the Specification:**

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 16, with the following:

A1
FIG. 1 is a diagram of an exemplary network environment 100 in which methods consistent with the present invention may be implemented. Customer 102 is an individual or corporation that may want to register a domain name with a domain name registration service. Customer 102 can access the domain name registration service through the service's account manager 106, which can be reached via Internet 104. Account manager 106 hosts the service's web page and is utilized by the customer to purchase or manage the various options that are associated with a domain name registration service account. For example, using the various web pages available on account manager 106, customer 102 could sign up for an account, reserve a domain name, buy the web forwarding option, configure the web forwarding option (e.g., determine where a given web address will forward), buy a mailbox at the service, contact a customer service ~~representation~~ representative, etc. Account manager 106 can be implemented, for example, using a SunServer machine available from Sun Microsystems. Account manager 106 also runs web server software, such as Stronghold. The web server software is able to communicate with an account manager program that is also resident on account manager 106 using a protocol, such as Java servlet. The account manager program is the actual program that is responsible for managing the aforementioned customer options.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 15, line 10, with the following:

R2
If the data transfer has no error, then data files 118, 124 may be updated to reflect the new data (step 410). For example, the update may occur by deleting the old backup data associated with data files 118, 124, moving the current data in data files 118, 124 into the backup position, and moving the new data into the current position. After the data files have been updated as described above, a determination is made as to whether the data was correctly installed in the data files (step 412). If the data was not correctly installed, then a message to that effect is sent (step 414) to, for example, an employee of the domain name registration service. If the data was correctly installed, then a message reporting that the update was successful is sent (step 416) to an employee of the domain name registration

service. When data has been successfully installed, it is immediately available for use in web forwarding operations.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 15, line 10, with the following:

A3

Using the web address that was included in the request, forwarder 116 acquires a domain name and a uniform resource identifier (URI) for that web address (step 502). For example, if user 130 types in a web address of "www.joe-domain.com/section3/user1.html", forwarder 116 uses that web address to capture a domain name of "joe-domain.com" and a URI of "/sectoin3/user1.html". After acquiring the relevant information, forwarder 116 uses the capture domain name as the basis for searching data file 118 for an entry that corresponds to the domain name (step 504). Specifically, forwarder 116 searches for a forwarding URL that corresponds to the captured domain name. After forwarder 116 attempts to find a forwarding URL, a determination is made as to whether or not there was a processing error (step 506 510). For example, a processing error may occur if for some reason the data file is missing or cannot be properly read. If a processing error has occurred, then user 130 is directed to a web page that provides an indication that the system is temporarily down. If the search proceeded without any errors, then a determination is made as to whether or not a forwarding URL that corresponds to the entered domain name was found (step 606). If no forwarding URL was found during the search even though the search was completed without error, then user 130 is directed to a default "under construction" web page (step 512). The forwarding program (e.g., forwarder 116 or 122) may find no forwarding URL, for example, when the entered domain name is missing from the data file (e.g., data file 118 or 124). A missing domain name could be an indication that the data generation process has not yet finished or that it did not finish properly.